



Mobilizing mobile medical units for hurricane relief: The United States Public Health Service and Broward County Health Department response to hurricane Wilma, Broward County, Florida

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Abstract:

OBJECTIVES: To describe the outcomes of a collaborative response of federal, state, county, and local agencies in conducting syndromic surveillance and delivering medical care to persons affected by the storm through the use of mobile medical units. **METHODS:** Nine mobile medical vans were staffed with medical personnel to deliver care in communities affected by the storm. Individual patient encounter information was collected. **RESULTS:** A total of 14,033 housing units were approached and checked for occupants. Of residents with whom contact was made, approximately 10 percent required medical assessment in their homes; 3,218 clients were medically evaluated on the mobile medical vans. Sixty-two percent of clients were female. The most common presenting complaints included normal health maintenance (59%), upper respiratory tract illness (10%), and other illness (10%). Injuries occurred in 9 percent. A total of 1,531 doses of medications were dispensed from the mobile medical units during the response. **CONCLUSION:** Mobile medical units provided an efficient means to conduct syndromic surveillance and to reach populations in need of medical care who were unable to access fixed local medical facilities.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1097/01.PHH.0000285195.39179.7d>

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Extreme Weather Event

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Extreme Weather Event: Hurricanes/Cyclones

Geographic Feature: 

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Ocean/Coastal

Geographic Location: 

resource focuses on specific location

United States

Health Impact: 

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

Intervention: 

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Medical Community Engagement: 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Black

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Research Article, Research Article

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: 



resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content